(b) if so, the details of the said Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government has launched "Krishi Sharmik Samajik Suraksha Yojana—2001". The scheme will be implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in a phased manner and will cover the following social security needs of agricultural workers including landless agricultural workers.

(a) Life-cum-accident insurance

(b) Money back

(c) Superannuation benefits.

Agricultural workers between the age of 18 years to 50 years are eligible for the Scheme. The worker will contribute Rs.1/—per day and Government of India will conttribute Rs.2/—per day under the scheme. Initially, the scheme will cover 10 lakh agricultural workers in 50 districts over a period of three years.

Holding of Corpus of E.P.F. in Special Deposit Scheme

576. SHRI DIPANKER MUKHERJEE:

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that almost 80 per cent of the corpus of the Employees Provident Fund is now held in Special Deposit Scheme (SDS);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Board of Trustees, of Employees' Provident Fund had unanimously recommended to make the interest-rate reduction on SDS applicable only to future accretions in the scheme and continue to pay @ 12 per cent on the outstanding balance in SDS as on 31st March, 2000 and @ 11 per cent on the balance as on 31st March, 2001; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) 78.74% of the total corpus of the Employees Provident Fund was in the Special Deposit Scheme (SDS) account as on 30.6.2001.

(b) and (c) Since 1.4.1997 no fresh investment of PF contributions is being made in SDS account and hence the question of investment of fresh incremental accretions at a different rate in a separate SDS account does not rise. The investment pattern notified with effect from 1.4.1997 also does not provide for investment in SDS account.

Women Labour in the Country

†577. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women labour presently in the country specially in Uttaranchal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Punjab;

(b) out of them the number of women labourers engaged in hazardous industries;

(c) whether reproductive organs of the said women labourers have badly affected due to continuous working in hazardous industries; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ban their employment in these hazardous industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) According to 1991 Census, the total female work force in the country, including women labourers is 8,97,67,563. State-wise numbers of these workers are indicated in Annexure.

(c) and (d) There are speical protective provisions prohibiting/regulating the working conditions of women workers in hazardous industries/areas in various statutes. This includes the Factories Act, 1948 and Model Rules framed thereunder which prohibit employment of women workers in dangerous processes/operations and the Mines Act, 1952, which prohibits employment of women workers below ground. No specific study has been conducted to access whether reproductory organs of women are badly affected as a result of being employed in hazardous industries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.